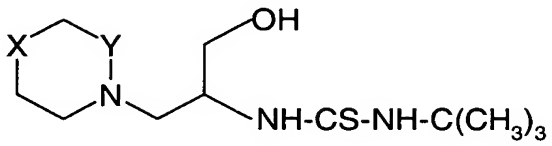
CLAIMS

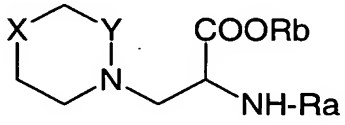
We claim:

1) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula (II)



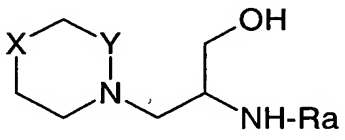
(II)

, comprising reacting a compound of formula (IIa):



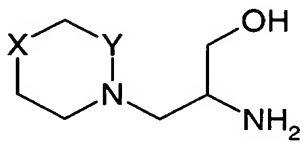
(IIa)

with a reducing agent to obtain a compound of formula (IIb):



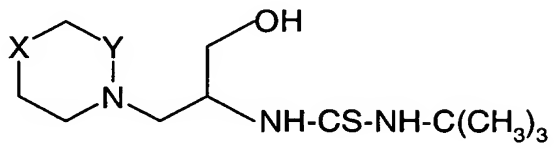
(IIb)

reacting said compound of formula (IIb) with a deprotecting agent to obtain a compound of formula (IIc):



(IIc)

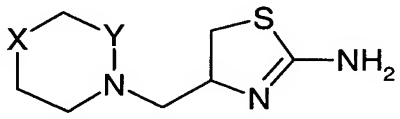
reacting said compound of formula (IIc) with *tert*-butylisothiocyanate to obtain a compound of formula (II):



(II) ; and

wherein Ra is a protecting group of the amine function and Rb is a protecting group of the acid function.

2) A method of treating an illness, which involves an abnormal production of nitric oxide (NO) by induction of an inducible NO-synthase (NOS-2), comprising administering to a patient in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

either Y is (CH_2) and X is chosen from the following group: O, NH, N-(C_1-C_4)alkyl, N-benzyl, N-phenyl, N-(2-pyridyl), N-(3-pyridyl), N-(4-pyridyl), N-2-pyrimidyl, N-5-pyrimidyl, S, SO, SO_2, CH_2 and CHPh;

or Y is (C=O) and X is chosen from the following group: NH, N-phenyl, N-(2-pyridyl), N-(3-pyridyl), N-(4-pyridyl), N-2-pyrimidyl and N-5-pyrimidyl;

wherein the (C_1-C_4)alkyl contains 1 to 4 carbon atoms in a straight or branched chain; or

a racemic mixture, an enantiomer, a diastereoisomer or a mixture thereof, or a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

3) The method according to claim 2, wherein the compound of formula (I) is chosen from the following compounds:

4-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1,3-thiazol-2-ylamine,

4-(piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1,3-thiazol-2-ylamine, and

4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1,3-thiazol-2-ylamine, or

a racemic mixture, an enantiomer, a diastereoisomer or a mixture thereof, or a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4) The method according to claim 2, wherein the compound of formula (I) is 4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1,3-thiazol-2-ylamine or a racemic mixture, an enantiomer, or a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5) The method according to claim 2, wherein the illness is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, cerebral, focal or global ischemia, cerebral or spinal trauma, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, migraine, depression, schizophrenia, anxiety and epilepsy.

6) The method according to claim 2, wherein the illness is Parkinson's disease.

7) The method according to claim 2, wherein the illness is caused by inflammatory components.

8) The method according to claim 2, wherein the illness is caused by the growth of a tumor.